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family, however indigent, which does not buy these articles on account of their very low price. It will be the same with this paint.

"But let us turn from the country to the towns, where the painter must be employed. Let us suppose a house of a hundred fathoms surface is to have two coats of paint, which makes it equal to two hundred fathoms. By giving it to be done by the piece, a workman will cover twenty fathoms per day; and will be content to gain three francs for it; thus the labour will be reduced to thirty francs for ten days.

"Now let us shew the advantage to the master, for it is to the masters we must address ourselves; we may estimate the expense of the ladders, utensils, &c. necessary to be employed for this paint, at two francs per day, which amounts to twenty francs for ten days. Thus we may paint a surface of one hundred fathoms with two coats, at the price of fifty francs.

"But now let us ask, why there should be two coats, when one is sufficient for the purpose of completely covering the surface, and filling up all the pores, for it is not the thickness of the paint which gives it body; therefore half this sum may be saved, and it may be reduced to twenty-five, or at least thirty francs.

"I did not think it proper to meddle with the interests of the painters and builders, without first submitting to them, and afterwards to the architect, these calculations. One painter said to me, that if the price of this paint was fixed at six sous per fathom, they would have as much profit by it as by employing the most expensive colours.

"The number of old houses to be repaired, increase every year both in towns and the country, and most of them are painted in distemper; but the best, after a few storms, is all washed off, and the next year exhibits nothing but a dirty wall. This distemper costs at least six sous, the distempers with which the inner apartments of inferior houses are covered, comes off with the slightest friction, and cost fifteen or twenty sous. No one, therefore, can hesitate to substitute for this fragile material, a paint which is equally cheap, and so much superior; and it is to be hoped that all classes may know how to take advantage of this new process, which I repeat is preferable to every other for body.

"It remains for time to decide on its duration, but in the space of two years, applied externally, it has not undergone the slightest alteration, and I will insure it for ages, by applying to it the simple size or varnish which I have employed with astonishing success in my *milk paint*."

Meteoric Stones.

M. Marcel de Serres, who has written a history of the Fall of Stones from the clouds, printed in the late numbers of the Philosophical Magazine, concludes with the following observations.

"The causes of these phenomena, in appearance so remote, have nevertheless some approximation: thus rain is nothing but the precipitation of the water which is continually rising into the air; and aërolites probably only depend on the precipitation of an infinity of substances which are incessantly evaporating, and the re-action of which upon each other may form new combinations. This hypothesis will not appear gratuitous, if we pay attention to the immense quantity of compound substances which organic bodies, stagnant waters, and all bodies while under decomposition, exhale without ceasing, and which are lost in the air without our knowing any thing as to what they become. It is therefore fair to inquire what are the methods resorted to by nature to counterbalance this perpetual evaporation, and to purify the atmosphere from all those volatilized substances? In fact it is probable that nature employs other methods of purifying the air, though probably the organic bodies are the most powerful to which she resorts. Such are the principal proofs, or rather the most constant facts, which render probable the hypothesis of aërolites being formed in our atmosphere."

Singular Phenomenon.

Coloured snow and a coloured hoar-frost took place at Arezzo, March 1813. "Pliny and Livy have mentioned showers of burnt bricks, and much ridicule has been thrown upon them for it. During the evening, the ground being almost entirely covered with snow, there fell some snow, or rather hail, not very compact, of a reddish-yellow colour, which the people improperly called red.

Lightning was visible during the night: the north wind blew with considerable force at intervals, and a dull uniform noise was heard in the atmosphere, similar to what is produced at a great distance from the sea by a tempest. The sky seemed to threaten snow, and some persons thonght it was variegated with reddish-yellow clouds. It resulted from various observations: 1. That this snow or hail derived its colour from a very fine earthy substance, interposed with uniformity between the small crystals of the hail, without however being inclosed in their nucleus. 2. That this substance is composed almost entirely of alumine, very little carbonated lime, and a still less quantity of iron, manganese, and silex; finally, of a very feeble animal or vegetable principle, capable of being carbonized by the action of sulphuric acid and of putrefying water."

Late Improvements in Printing.

Since Tuesday, 29th November, the Times newspaper has been printed by machinery; that is to say, the forms (or pages) being composed and made up in the usual manner, have been worked off by means of machinery, moved by a steam engine, instead of being printed at the common press as heretofore usual. It is but justice to say that the paper, since this change in the mode of working, has not only been well printed, but much better than can, in the hurry of a daily paper, be effected in the common method; and if we add to this the fact stated by the proprietor, Mr. Walter, that, by means to this machinery, a much greater number can be worked off in a given time (the number that can be worked in one hour is stated at 1100), the invention may be hailed as an improvement in the art of printing of the highest consequence to mankind.

The inventor is a Mr. Kœnig, and the artizan by whom it has been constructed and brought into action, is a Mr. Baner. If the complexity and accuracy necessary in such a piece of machinery be considered, it will not be denied, that no small share of praise is due to both of these ingenious individuals. But when we consider the machinations and prejudices which Mr. Walter must have encountered, and with which he must yet lay his account to contend, in bringing this machinery into actual use, we know not to which to ascribe the greatest share of merit. May his firmness and perseverance meet its due reward!

It is somewhat remarkable, that while this invention, which has taken a long time to perfect, has been in progress, another, for the same object, was also carrying on by Mr. Bacon of Norwich, and Mr. Donkin, engineer, of Bermondsey, which was set at work within a day after the former commenced. The Norwich Mercury, received this morning, a paper published by Mr. Bacon, contains a prospectus of the latter machine, to which is added the following notice.

"Since this prospectus was printed, the machine has been set to work on a French Testament in this city, for the British and Foreign Bible Society. It is worked by one man and two boys; and we may venture to affirm, that in the ordinary manner in which the London newspapers are printed, many more copies than the number stated by the Times could be taken off with the greatest ease. Dr. Milner, the Master of Queen's College, Mr. Wood, President of St. John's, and Mr. Knave, since Master of Christ's, as a deputation from the Syndics of the Press at Cambridge, have also inspected the machine, and having manifested by their readiness to contract with the patentees for its introduction at the University, all the zeal which might be expected in that body for the cause of literature and of the arts. These are the earliest patrons of the art.

"The reader will learn little of the comparative excellence of the two processes from these descriptions. It will be for time to decide upon their respective merits; but there can be no doubt that a change in the art of printing, very important to society, will be effected by the joint or separate influence of these machines.

(Signed) "R. M. Bacon.

"*Norwick Mercury Office, Nov. 30, 1814.*"

We cannot, in few words, convey to our readers a full description of either of these machines, and must, therefore, content ourselves with briefly stating the prominent points in which these machines differ from each other. In Mr. Walter's, the forms are laid upon a travelling carriage, as in the common press, but having a range of such length that the form, by passing under a system of rollers, receives